

National Arts and Culture Accord

'Partnering for a Creative Australia'

An Australian, state, territory and local intergovernmental arrangement agreed through the meeting of cultural ministers

Preamble:

Australia's vibrant arts, cultural heritage and creative industries are born out of our unique history, including being home to some of the oldest continuing living cultures on earth. This history has inspired countless Australians to create and engage with diverse artistic and cultural experiences.

Australians recognise and celebrate the diversity of the creative sector, which embraces the rich heritage of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as the cultures of those from around the world that have made their home in Australia. Australians also appreciate the social and economic benefits derived from arts, culture and the creative industries, whether presented, produced or enjoyed at home or abroad.

All levels of government in Australia appreciate that, with the best legal, policy and fiscal strategies in place, it is possible to create a productive environment that values cultural activities, fosters excellence and participation, recognises diversity and encourages expression of a distinctive Australian culture. Significantly, this environment can make a strong contribution to sustainable economic development.

In the spirit of partnership and cooperation, the Australian, state, territory and local governments agree that increased collaboration across the jurisdictions can enhance and strengthen support for the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sector; for individual practitioners and cultural organisations, and for all Australians engaging with arts and culture to deliver a more accessible, sustainable and competitive cultural sector.

This National Arts and Culture Accord (the Accord) is a framework through which the Australian, state, territory and local governments will work together to support Australia's artists, creators, cultural institutions and creative industries to ensure Australians have access to our rich and diverse creative culture wherever they live.

This Accord arose from consultation underpinning the development of the National Cultural Policy in 2011. It seeks to harness the respective roles and responsibilities of the Australian, state, territory and local governments to facilitate greater cooperation and affirm the centrality of the arts and culture to government policy and the contribution they make to community wellbeing.

The Accord builds on the existing work, research and collaboration between governments, including activities and partnerships with the sector.

Purpose and objectives:

This National Accord:

- clarifies the roles and responsibilities of all governments in supporting Australia's arts, cultural heritage and creative industries; and
- provides a framework to enhance collaboration in areas of national interest and shared responsibility and work productively on specific issues through an agreed triennial work plan.

While acknowledging the variations in the individual specific responsibilities across the states and territories as well as across the three tiers of government, the scope of the Accord broadly includes core arts, creative industries and cultural heritage as outlined at [Appendix 1](#).

Agreement to this Accord demonstrates that all levels of government in Australia recognise the positive role that the arts play and the need to support strong and vibrant arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sectors.

This Accord signals a commitment by governments to support policy objectives which provide a stable base to underpin the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sectors in Australia and to enable organisations and practitioners to produce new, interesting and exciting works that deliver benefits to the Australian public, and to promote international exchange and collaboration. This national agreement seeks to provide a framework to:

- take a national approach to develop and grow Australia's arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sectors for artists and audiences through direct action and non-arts partnerships within and across jurisdictions as relevant;
- address needs, issues, gaps and barriers; reduce duplication and complexity; and align policies, investment and programs in areas that deliver real improvements to the viability and vitality of the sector and the access of Australians to arts and culture;
- increase the impact of existing government investment and non-government support by ensuring that funding is used to the greatest advantage for the sector to deliver greatest benefit to the Australian community; and
- identify opportunities for enhanced partnerships with non-government stakeholders.

Parties:

This National Arts and Culture Accord is agreed through the *Meeting of Cultural Ministers* and is endorsed by:

- the Australian Government's Minister for the Arts;
- state and territory arts and cultural ministers; and
- the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA), representing local governments.

Operation of this Accord:

This National Arts and Culture Accord will operate in perpetuity or until termination is mutually agreed by all levels of government who are party to the arrangement. This arrangement between parties is not legally binding in any way and does not give rise to legal rights or obligations.

Cultural ministers and ALGA will consider a review of this Accord at regular three year intervals in line with the triennial work plan to ensure it remains relevant.

Part A.1 - Roles and functions:

All levels of government undertake complementary work to support the growth and development of the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries, including promoting the role of these in cultural diplomacy and social engagement, within regional, national and international contexts. Sometimes this work is undertaken in partnership.

All jurisdictions have responsibility for:

- the oversight, development and delivery of regulation that supports the sector and cultural outcomes;
- formulating policy settings which ensure access to high quality, diverse artistic content for all Australians;
- providing opportunities for a diverse range of professional arts and cultural works through both established and emerging arts practice;
- supporting key cultural organisations and institutions within their jurisdictions; and
- identifying priorities for funding capital investments within their jurisdictions.

Australia's cultural ministers and local governments share a proud history of cooperation and collaboration. The principal forum for cross-jurisdictional engagement between cultural ministers on matters of national significance is the meeting of cultural ministers. Australian and state and territory government cultural ministers meet regularly through this forum, with ALGA as invited observers, to discuss policy matters of mutual interest to the respective governments.

The Australian Government

The Australian Government's primary role in policy development is to focus on matters of national relevance or which require national application to support the Australian arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sectors, including:

- formulating nationally relevant policy settings and regulations, including intellectual property and taxation incentives, in consultation with state and territory governments;
- ensuring opportunities for arts education and training to promote career pathways in the arts and cultural sector;
- collaborating with Australian Government departments and agencies to progress implementation of arts and cultural matters of national significance, such as the coordination of protection for Australian content, development of cultural diplomacy through the arts, and implementation of initiatives (and the recognition of the importance of culture) in whole-of-government policies;

- funding national arts and culture agencies such as the national collecting institutions which perform a central role in preserving and making Australia’s arts and culture accessible;
- promoting participation in, and access to, Australia’s arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression;
- encouraging national and international interest in, and access to, Australia’s arts and culture, and promoting international cultural exchange and market development;
- providing flexible and responsive policy settings which facilitate opportunities for Australia’s creative industries to maximise commercial capacity domestically and internationally; and
- monitoring domestic and international policy issues impacting on the sector’s interests as a whole, such as the negotiation of and compliance with obligations under international treaties and cultural arrangements.
- The Australian Government also supports:

The Australia Council: The Australia Council for the Arts is the Australian Government’s arts funding and advisory body. It supports Australia’s arts through the delivery of funding, strengthening and developing the arts sector. The Australia Council is a statutory authority established under the *Australia Council Act 1975* with a guiding principle that promotes excellence in the arts. Its grant-making operates at arm’s length from government under the principle of peer assessment.

Screen Australia: Screen Australia is the key Australian Government direct funding body for the Australian screen production industry. Under the *Screen Australia Act 2008* Screen Australia supports the development, production, promotion and distribution of Australian screen content. Screen Australia also administers the government's Producer Offset and International Co-production Program to increase the commercial sustainability of production in Australia.

State and territory governments

State and territory government arts and culture agencies are predominantly responsible for the coordination and implementation of policies and the allocation of resources that support the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries within their jurisdictions.

There are variations in the individual and specific responsibilities across states and territories. Broadly, state and territory governments:

- encourage local, national and international interest in and access to arts and cultural activities which promote the cultural vibrancy of their state or territory;
- identify priorities for funding capital investments within their jurisdictions, including investments in public art and state collections;

- where opportunities exist, work collaboratively with local government authorities and councils to plan, develop and upgrade local and community arts and cultural infrastructure in line with broader local and regional development goals;
- provide support for skills development across the sector; and
- provide support and development for arts and culture projects and artists.

State and territory governments also support these activities through a number of state agencies and institutions.

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) is in a unique position. The ACT supports activities through local arts agencies, however the ACT Assembly has the functions of a local council and the city of Canberra has no other local government.

Local government

Local governments and councils have a particularly important role in infrastructure development, renewal and maintenance of cultural support and encouraging Australians to participate in arts and cultural activity. Through the recently established National Local Government Cultural Forum, local governments will work to set long-term objectives for local government cultural planning and the arts, with a view to sharing knowledge and ideas that can strengthen communities, and improve community health and well-being through the arts.

Local governments invest in local arts, heritage and cultural development activities and resources, and have key responsibility for supporting local institutions such as libraries and galleries.

Shared responsibilities and activities

Parties to this Accord have identified a number of areas where coordinated national activity is supported through collaboration:

- the development and implementation across jurisdictions of actions arising from national policies, including the National Arts and Disability Strategy, the Visual Arts and Craft Strategy, the National Indigenous Languages Policy and the policy on Indigenous Repatriation;
- the delivery of coordinated funding support for the major performing arts organisations through the Major Performing Arts Excellence Pool, as agreed by cultural ministers at the 30 March 2012 Meeting of Cultural Ministers;
- supporting small to medium arts organisations across all art forms;
- engagement on the repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders ancestral remains from international collections, and the repatriation of ancestral remains and secret sacred objects from Australian cultural institutions, to Traditional Owner groups across Australia;

- delivery of professional development and training to arts workers in the Indigenous visual arts industry;
- the delivery of actions arising from the development of a national policy for the protection of Traditional Cultural Expressions;
- distribution of funding to support regional access and participation in the arts including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, culture and languages; and
- promotion of international cultural exchange and market development.

Other areas of activity where jurisdictions share interests include:

Legislation and regulation

All jurisdictions have responsibility for the oversight, development and delivery of regulation that supports the sector and cultural outcomes. All jurisdictions aim to accommodate provisions to support a vibrant arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sector, including actions to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens for sector stakeholders.

Statistics and research

Under the Accord, Government arts and cultural agencies continue to collaborate and co-fund research, collection and dissemination of statistical data on arts and cultural matters as an area of common interest and benefit. Recognising the value of robust and timely information to the sector and for guiding government policy, governments also endeavour to share research that arises outside of co-funding arrangements, where appropriate.

Cultural infrastructure

Cultural infrastructure, including buildings, technologies, public spaces and content, is a vital component of enabling the delivery of arts and cultural experiences. Through this Accord governments will endeavour to share skills, expertise, ideas and available resources to identify solutions to nationally relevant cultural infrastructure concerns. Private partnerships, particularly where financial investment is concerned, will be integral to successful outcomes.

Collections sector

Australia's collecting institutions play a vital role in Australia's cultural life. Australia's museums, galleries, archives and libraries champion and preserve Australia's heritage and enable all Australians to connect with Australia's vibrant and diverse arts and culture. The collections sector is a particularly strong example of parallel support for the industry with libraries, museums, galleries and archives operating at all levels of government, from the national collecting institutions, to key state and territory organisations to local and community centres.

Philanthropy, private Sponsorship and investment

It is the responsibility of all tiers of government to encourage arts practitioners and cultural organisations to engage with the private sector. Leveraging corporate and philanthropic investment to broaden and strengthen the base of support for Australian arts and culture already functions to drive the value of government investment further. As the sector develops, building a culture of philanthropy is therefore crucial to ensuring the long-term vitality and sustainability of the arts in Australia.

The Australian Government supports private giving through a range of initiatives including the Cultural Gifts program, encouraging corporate sponsorships for the arts, and providing capacity and skills development to arts managers and organisations to help them identify

and seek funding opportunities. State and territory governments also contribute to initiatives to encourage philanthropy.

Recognising the opportunities for greater international cultural collaboration, governments also have a responsibility to consider ways of encouraging artists to build support internationally, including through joint ventures and co-productions with international partners.

Part A.2 - Principles and processes for collaboration:

The principles underpinning the operation of this Accord are:

- shared commitment to collaboration in the delivery of a more accessible, sustainable and competitive arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sectors;
- respect for the diversity, scope, strengths and independence of individual jurisdictions;
- mutual benefit;
- transparency in funding allocations and processes;
- minimisation of duplication, complexity and regulation;
- fairness (for example proportional share of Australian Government resources);
- responsiveness and flexibility (support for unique needs and opportunities); and
- open exchange of knowledge and information.

This Accord affords the opportunity for all governments to deliver the optimal mix of investment and support to promote sustainability, growth, international exchange and innovation in the arts, cultural heritage and creative industries sectors for the benefits of artists, creators, cultural organisations, audiences and the Australian community.

In recognition of this, Australian, state, territory and local governments agree to:

- use consistent messages to promote the public value of Australia's vibrant, diverse and distinctive arts and culture including the positive outcomes socially, economically and diplomatically;
- promote, develop and protect Australia's unique Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts, languages and cultures;
- enable the sustained long-term efforts required by governments, museums and communities to effect repatriation;
- encourage Australians to create, produce and enjoy cultural and artistic experiences and Australian content;
- support the sustainability and growth of the sector by reducing red tape for arts organisations and practitioners and harmonising, where possible, the timing and administration of funding programs;
- amplify the effectiveness and efficiency of the combined governments' investment by identifying and reducing gaps and overlaps;
- support increased philanthropic and other private sector engagement with the sector by developing effective models and consistent strategies;
- collaborate and co-fund research, and collection and dissemination of statistical data on arts, cultural heritage and creative industry matters;
- share learning and provide assistance, where possible, to enable other jurisdictions to replicate successful projects and programs, for example service delivery and business procedures, within their own jurisdiction/s; and

- promote Australian arts and culture overseas, encourage international exchange and collaboration, engage in cultural diplomacy with our international partners and enhance coordination to maximise the impact of Australia's international cultural diplomacy.

Mechanisms for collaboration

The principal forum for cross-jurisdictional engagement between cultural ministers on matters of national significance is the meeting of cultural ministers.

Meeting of cultural ministers

Australian and state and territory government cultural ministers meet regularly through this forum to discuss policy matters of mutual interest. The meeting of cultural ministers provides a forum to pursue opportunities for collaborative engagement.

The meeting of cultural ministers is supported by regular meetings of cultural ministers' officials, which drive delivery against key actions agreed by cultural ministers. Meetings of officials also monitor the progress and implementation of key projects and provide strategic direction for the sector on priority issues.

The meeting of cultural ministers is convened as required, averaging once a year, with arts and cultural ministers from each state and territory and the Australian Government (ALGA, New Zealand Government and the Australia Council are observers).

The chair of the meeting of cultural ministers rotates between jurisdictions, with the secretariat function following the chair. The meeting of cultural ministers is supported by officials and includes the following standing working groups:

- Meeting of Cultural ministers officials working group (MCM officials)
- Statistics working group (SWG)

The meeting of cultural ministers will be the forum responsible for oversight and governance of this Accord.

Triennial work program

The meeting of cultural ministers will agree a triennial work program which will establish agreed areas of focus and priority actions to be delivered through the meeting of cultural ministers. To be renegotiated every three years, it will ensure the meeting of cultural ministers agenda remains responsive to changes in government priorities at all levels and within the sector.

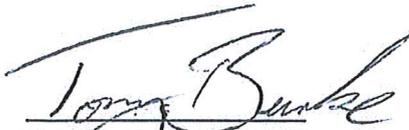
The work plan will:

- identify opportunities for inter-government, cross-sectoral and cross-portfolio collaboration on agreed matters;

- articulate methods to leverage partnerships and cooperative programs to deliver outcomes nationally and within state, territory and local government areas in partnership with the sector; and
- define measurable outcomes for the sector and the community to demonstrate the benefits delivered through the meeting of cultural ministers.

The triennial work program will not inhibit the development of cross-jurisdictional projects outside of its scope.

SIGNED ON THE 12 APRIL 2013 BY:



The Hon Tony Burke MP

Minister for the Arts

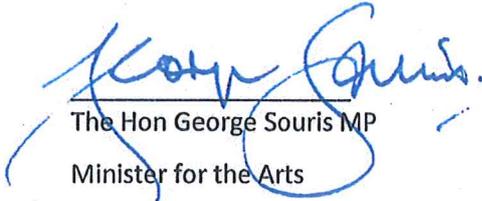
Commonwealth Government



Ms Joy Burch MLA

Minister for the Arts

Australian Capital Territory



The Hon George Souris MP

Minister for the Arts

New South Wales



The Hon Matthew Conlan MLA

Minister for Arts and Museums

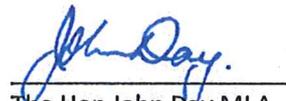
Northern Territory



The Hon Ian Walker MP

Minister for the Arts

Queensland



The Hon John Day MLA

Minister for Culture and the Arts

Western Australia



The Hon Lara Giddings MP

Premier and Minister for the Arts

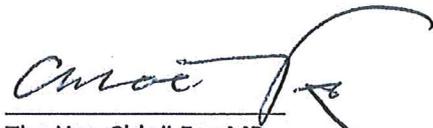
Tasmania



The Hon Heidi Victoria MLA

Minister for the Arts

Victoria



The Hon Chloë Fox MP

Minister Assisting the Minister for the Arts

South Australia



Mayor Barry Easter

Australian Local Government

Association

The Accord adopts a broad concept of arts and culture encompassing three overlapping and interrelated sectors:

Core arts: Music, performing arts, literature and visual arts, including established and emerging art forms, and inter-arts activities. In addition to the individual and collective activities of practitioners, for vocational or recreational purposes, the core arts include arts education, collections and performances which may be made available to the public in galleries, libraries, theatres, cultural venues and training institutions and increasingly on-line and broadcast.

Creative industries: A sector which harnesses a range of creative and business skills for commercial production and dissemination. Creative industries include film and television production, broadcasting, electronic games, architecture, design and fashion, publishing, media and advertising.

Cultural heritage: In parallel with core arts and creative industries there is a strong recognition of Australia's diverse cultural heritage, and the work of museums, galleries and libraries and archives to preserve and provide access to the artefacts and intangible heritage of Australia's culture. In particular, Australia's heritage includes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures which are amongst some of the oldest living cultures in the world.